

15 FEB 2000

Koh-rumours

I WAS IN MOURNING, KOH EXPLAINS HIS ABSENCE

PULAU PINANG, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today he did not make public appearance as he was in mourning, following his father's death.

"I believe people of all races understand the custom," he told reporters after officiating the draw for Sukma 2000, here.

Koh said he regretted that his absence from public functions including at Hari Raya, Thaipusam and Chinese New Year had led to rumours, among others, that he was shunned by Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders.

When he kept silence, he was accused of being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), he said.

Koh denied that he was under investigation and said those who spread such rumour lacked imagination.

He said the rumours and allegations were by those trying to undermine the state BN leadership.

On Sukma, Koh said he was satisfied with the preparations taken for the games to be held in May.

A special festival similar to the Pulau Pinang Fest would be held during the Sukma, he said.

"We anticipate over 15,000 athletes and officials coming here from all over the country and the state government has planned various side activities for them," he said.

Sukma Competition and Technical Committee chairman Datuk Dr Sak Cheng Lum said results of the various events would be posted on the Internet, the first state to introduce the facilities for the games.

A total of 35 events would be competed in the games to be held from May 27 with the closing on June 3 to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

--BERNAMA

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